

DENIM LOOKS ALL SEWN UP!

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The denim look is rugged and serviceable. Denim is recognized by the coarse yarns and a left hand twill (diagonal line) on the face of the fabric. Indigo-blue is the signature of denim but recently denim has been dyed in an array of colors and designs.

Fabric

The fiber content may be cotton or cotton/polyester. Denim may be either woven or knitted and often has a permanent press finish.

Pattern

The total look is one of earthliness. The pattern should incorporate construction details unique to denim — topstitching, flat-felled seams, patch pockets and front closings. Denim is especially good in dresses, rainwear, shirts, jeans, overalls and pants.

Construction

Denim is easy to sew and requires no special equipment. Follow the general directions, but add these special finishes to make your denim garment truly the "denim look."

Seam Finishes

Topstitching is visible on the outside of the garment. When stitched from the outside, the line can be controlled from the visible side. Also, machine stitching looks better on top than underneath. The stitch length often is lengthened. Use topstitching as a design feature, about $\frac{1}{4}$ inch from side seams, edge of hem, edges of collars, cuffs, pockets or down front opening. The thread may be a matching or contrasting color.

The flat-felled seam is a sport clothes feature. Most seams can be finished by this method, but the armhole seam can be felled only if the top of the sleeve is almost straight (as in a shirt sleeve) with a very shallow cap and no ease.

To fell a seam, make a plain seam, keeping right sides out. After pressing open, re-press with both seam allowances turned in the same direction (figure 1).

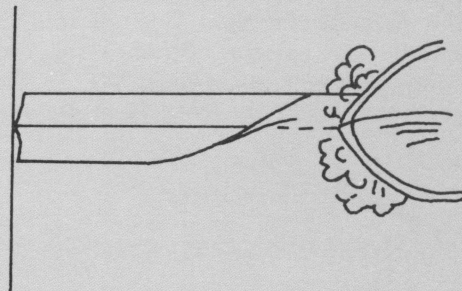


Fig. 1

Trim away under seam allowance to $\frac{1}{8}$ inch. Fold in top seam allowance to half its width (figure 2). Basting may be helpful.

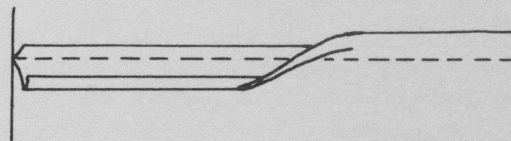


Fig. 2

Edgestitch fold to garment (figure 3).

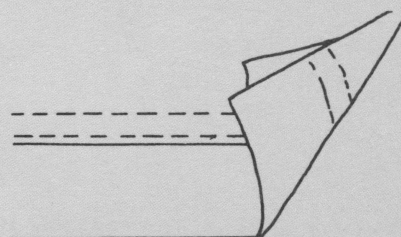


Fig. 3

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Pockets

Sharp edge seams are necessary for patch or hip pockets. To have sharp edges, interface, trim, grade, clip and topstitch (figure 4).

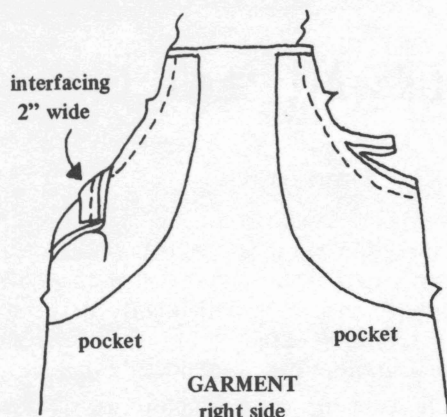


Fig. 4

Patch Pocket. Turn the raw top edge of the pocket section $\frac{1}{4}$ inch to the wrong side and stitch. Fold the hem to the right side on fold line, as indicated on the pattern. Stitch along the seam line around the remaining edges. Trim the seam to $\frac{3}{8}$ inch and trim the corners at the top fold (figure 5).

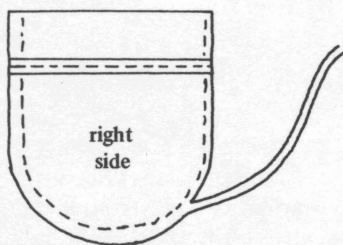


Fig. 5

Turn the hem to the wrong side. For rounded pockets, clip through seam allowances at the curves. Turn to the wrong side on the stitched line; baste and press (figure 6).

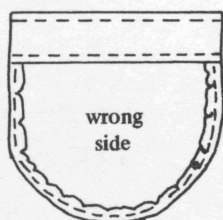


Fig. 6

For a square pocket, fold the corners to the wrong side (figure 7) and press.

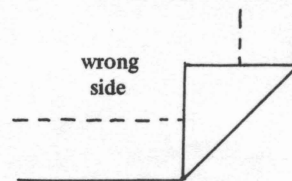


Fig. 7

Turn the seam allowance on the stitched line; miter the corners by folding (figure 8); baste and press the pocket.

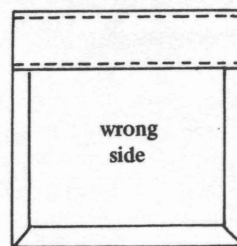


Fig. 8

You may want to topstitch the top edge (figures 6, 8) with two rows of stitching, $\frac{1}{4}$ inch apart. Baste the pocket to the garment; topstitch with one or two rows along the edges. To reinforce the top corners, stitch a triangle (figure 9-A), make a close zigzag stitch about $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch wide for $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (figure 9-B) or backstitch for about $\frac{1}{2}$ inch (figure 9-C).

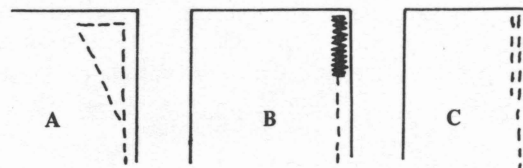


Fig. 9

For added country interest:

Facings. They can be used along the center front closing, neck, sleeve hem and pocket. The hem can be faced with fabrics such as prairie print.

Fastenings. Select decorative zippers, sporty buttons in colored plastic and decorative or gripper snaps.

Trims. Use decorative braids—wide, bright or textured in weave or embroidery—or designs of Indian or peasant prints.